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*Global Environmentalism and Local Politics:
Transnational Advocacy Networks in Brazil, Ecuador,
and India.* Maria Guadalupe Moog Rodrigues.

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reviewing their reports and other documents, as well as the burgeoning scholarly literature on the subject, she engaged in in-depth interviews with the leaders and members of various fatherhood organizations. These included Promise Keepers, the Center on Fathers, Families and Public Policy; the National Fatherhood Initiative; the Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization; and the Institute for American Values to name but a few. The author classifies these organizations into two categories, namely pro-marriage groups and fragile families groups. The former are comprised primarily of white, middle class men who have a strong moral commitment and believe that the problems facing families today can be solved through the promotion of Christian marriage ideals. On the other hand, fragile-families groups are primarily concerned with low-income African-American and other minority men who have fathered children but who are not in stable, marital relationships. These organizations believe that the problems facing fragile, low income families must be understood in the context of poverty, unemployment, inadequate educational opportunities and social deprivation.

Contrasting these two types of organizations, Gavanas provides an incisive account of how they deal with family issues and particularly with questions of masculinity, gender and sexuality. She reveals the very divergent perspectives and preferences these groups bring to an analysis of family politics in the United States today. Her account of the way pro-marriage groups have campaigned effectively to influence the national political agenda is of particular interest and relevance when seeking to comprehend recent national policy shifts in the field of social welfare. Indeed, her book is essential reading for anyone interested in welfare policy in the United States today and for understanding the way earlier commitments to eradicate poverty through income transfers have been replaced with programs that emphasize the inculcation of traditional middle-class American values.

Maria Guadalupe Moog Rodrigues, *Global Environmentalism and Local Politics: Transnational Advocacy Networks in Brazil, Ecuador, and India*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2003. \$57.50 hardcover, \$18.95 papercover.

The role of national and transnational organizations in affecting change at the local level has been discussed widely in the development literature. Transnational non-governmental organizations have the technical, legal, political and monetary resources to focus on issues that local networks do not possess. These resources can be used to apply external pressure in the form of reduced funding from international sources, political pressure from other countries, and swings in national and international popular opinion.

Global Environmentalism and Local Politics examines the interplay between local, national, and transnational organizations in three different countries. The author is not only interested in describing the process and results of these networks, but also examining the balance of power between local, national, and transnational players. One of the authors' primary arguments is that "ellipsisthe effectiveness of a transnational environmental advocacy network depends, primarily, on the role that local member organizations play in determining the network's goals and strategies." To examine this argument the author asks several key questions: first, who participates in advocacy networks and how do they participate; second, what strategies are available and used by transnational groups and are they successful and third, what are the results of the transnational advocacy?

The book consists of eight chapters, four of which focus on the examination of the Rondônia network in Brazil. The examination of transnational networks in Ecuador (an anti-oil network) and India (the Narmada network) consist of one chapter each. The first chapter introduces the concept of transnational networks and concisely describes the goal of the book, the key questions employed, and the methods used. Chapters two through five examine various aspects of the Rondônia network in Brazil: the history of the network; its successes and failures; and the consequences transnational organizations have on local politics. The writing, particularly in these chapters, is thorough, yet dense. There are numerous abbreviations and acronyms that make it difficult to maintain the flow of the discussion. The text does include four pages at the front of the book describing the acronyms and abbreviations but the reader has to refer to these again and again. Additionally, a time line of significant events would have been

helpful in summarizing the examination of the Rondônia network and focusing the discussion. Chapters six and seven discuss the history, main actors, and effectiveness of transnational networks in Ecuador and India respectively.

The two chapters on Ecuador and India are really used to provide comparisons to the discussion of the Rondônia network, and as such the level of analysis is not detailed. These chapters are, however, thorough and offer insightful analyses of the successes and failures of the transnational networks in both countries. Readers interested in the political interplay and power sharing between local, national, and transnational groups in the environmental field will find this book useful for its analysis and description of the issues.

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David B. Reynolds (Ed.), *Partnering for Change: Unions and Community Groups Build Coalitions for Economic Justice*. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 2004. \$66.95 hardcover, \$24.95 papercover.

Unions have traditionally focused on the needs of their own members. They first emerged to mobilize workers who campaigned for improved working conditions, increased secure job security and the end of exploitative practices that characterized 19th century industrial employment. However, they not only offered workers an opportunity to promote their own interests but to express solidarity with working people and to join wider campaigns for social reform. Although social welfare history textbooks often pay more attention to the role of politicians and the leaders of the social reform movement in bringing about progressive social change, the unions made a critically important contribution to efforts to introduce social security, expand social services for families and children, and formulate policies designed to reduce poverty.

Although unions have long been involved in partnering with social reform movements and progressive politics, their contribution has not been properly recognized. The problem has been exacerbated in recent times as unions have been portrayed in the media as self-interested, corrupt and economically irresponsible. Many corporations have successfully exploited these images to